

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, and 20 will have been amended to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter and to enhance the clarity of the claim language, as discussed below. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for allowing claims 14-20 in the present application.

In the above-referenced Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIU (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,482) in view of STIFLE et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,633,462); the Examiner has rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIU in view of STIFLE et al. and BOYCE et al.; the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIU in view of STIFLE et al. and further in view of MALLADI (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,532); and the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIU in view of STIFLE et al. and further in view of MALLADI (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,532). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, at least for the reasons stated below.

The present invention is generally directed to reducing the amount of processing on decoded video data in a decoder. More specifically, the present invention will determine a throttling amount and apply this amount to the decoder. Additionally, in one aspect of the invention, the number of coefficients inverse quantized and inverse DCT transformed is reduced by setting the coefficients to alternate values.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIU in view of STIFLE et al., neither LIU nor STIFLE et al. disclose the recited determining a throttling amount and controlling a processing using the throttling amount. To the contrary, LIU discloses a video system 10 that adaptively sets the number input buffers. In one aspect, the evaluate processor routine 372 will determine the capabilities of the processor and will set the buffer parameters in step 374 (See column 13, lines 55-59). However, there is no disclosure whatsoever in LIU of determining a throttling amount or controlling the processing using the determined throttling amount. LIU merely allocates the number of buffers and does not determine a throttling amount.

STIFLE et al. discloses a multiple access communications system that links dispersed subscriber locations in a cable television (CATV) network. STIFLE et al. further provides an autonomous throttle to regulate a system load (see column 4, lines 55-59). The STIFLE et al. system being a CATV system, including a trunk amplifier 60 and branch lines 70 and taps 68, 71-73 (see column 5, line 64 et seq.). Thus, the STIFLE et al. throttling is for a geographically dispersed CATV network and not for a decoder as recited in the claims. Additionally, STIFLE et al. does not disclose determining the throttle amount and more importantly does not disclose determining the throttle amount based on computational processing power or decoder processing capabilities. Furthermore, STIFLE et al. does not disclose controlling computation processing of the decoder based on a throttling amount as claimed.

The Examiner asserts in paragraph 1 of the Official Action that LIU discloses determining processing power, however as noted above, this is for allocating buffers (see

step 372) and not for determining throttling amount. The Examiner also asserts in the Official Action that STIFFLE et al. discloses determining a throttling amount, again this is for CATV system and not for a decoder as recited by the claims.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 9 and 12, neither LIU nor STIFLE et al. disclose the claimed determining a throttling amount and controlling a processing using the throttling amount as noted above. BOYCE et al. does appear to set coefficients to different values (See column 10, lines 5-10), however BOYCE et al. does not overcome the other shortcomings of LIU and STIFLE et al. noted above. That is, BOYCE et al. also does not determine the throttle amount based on computational processing power or decoder processing capabilities as recited by claims 9 and 12.

In contrast, the present application does not propose or require any type of control over the encoding process, only of the decoding process. In other words, the throttling occurs at the decoding stage, without consideration of previously encoded throttling instructions, thus providing increased flexibility. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on any combination including the LIU, STIFLE et al., and BOYCE et al. references is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, and 20 do not substantially affect or narrow the scope of these claims.

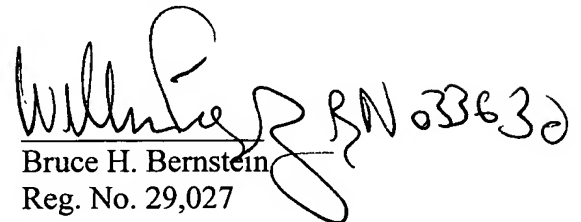
For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 12 have been shown to be allowable. With regard to claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 13, Applicant asserts that they are allowable at least because they depend from independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 12, respectively.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of previously asserted rejections set forth in the Official Action, together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attached thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Amendment or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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